

MONTH 7, VOLUME 4

HOPE

THE HOPE
OF CHRIST
IN EVERY
STUDENT

WEEKLY GUIDE



GOOD NESS

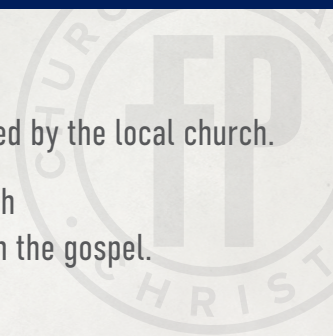
2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR



FIRST PRIORITY

is a campus evangelism strategy implemented by the local church.

MISSION: To unite the local body of Christ with a plan of action to influence the schools with the gospel.



FIRST PRIORITY BUILDS NETWORKS OF SUPPORT

Students “The Players In the Game” Taking The Love & Message of Jesus Christ As Missionaries To Their School.



Parents “The Fans In The Stands” Praying For, Supporting & Discipling Their Children.



Churches “The Coaches On The Sidelines”

Equipping, Encouraging and Empowering Students.



Business / Community Leaders “The Owners Of The Team” Investing Leadership, Mentoring and Resources In Their Community.

Educators “The Referees Of The Game” Providing Guidance and Direction.



“First Priority is the most innovative way to reach a city for Christ. It unites our local churches together as one to make a difference.”

– Dr. Jay Strack, President of Student Leadership University

PLANNING GUIDE

Help Week:

Host:

Student speaker:

Behind the scenes organizer:

Overcome Week:

Host:

Student speaker:

Behind the scenes organizer:

Prepare Week:

Host:

Faith story 1:

Faith story 2: (optional)

Faith story 3: (optional)

Behind the scenes organizer:

Engage Week:

Host:

Activity leader:

Gospel presenter:

Behind the scenes organizer:

Host: Welcomes, opens in prayer, introduces the week, introduces the speaker, makes announcements, talks through response cards, thanks everyone, and dismisses.

Behind the scenes organizer: Makes necessary arrangements for (but doesn't do it all him/herself) greeters (who also hand out response cards), food, decor, printing, music.

GOODNESS

Help Week Leader Guide

Help Week: A time for student leaders to equip their peers to become missionaries to their school, as they plan and pray for the month of campus ministry ahead.

PRE MEETING INSTRUCTIONS:

- Select one student to host this month's Help Week
- Remind students to post on social media and text friends reminding them about First Priority club

INTRODUCTION: 2 minutes

Welcome Students, Prayer and Introduction

- **Help Week Host:** "Welcome to First Priority! This week is Help Week, which is where we help each other become missionaries to our school. Over the next few weeks, we will be studying how **GOODNESS** can be instrumental in sharing the Gospel."
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Introduce Student Leading Discussion:** "Today, my friend, _____, is going to share with us about how our joy affects our impact on the world."



GROUP TIME: Hard Choices (20 Minutes)

Student Speaker: What is God's idea of goodness? Goodness is a characteristic of God – quiet the opposite of someone bad, evil, or selfish intentions. The world's idea of "good" is mostly about what is beneficial for you personally (results, like mood, emotion, wealth, popularity, etc.) God's goodness, however, is rooted in integrity and compassion.

For example, you could tell the truth that the whole class cheated on the test but then you might lose a few friends and earn an unpleasant reputation for being a snitch. From a worldly point-of-view, we have to do a lot of calculating. We think, "If I do this, then this might happen, so I should do this instead."

Fruits
of the Spirit



GOODNESS

But the characteristic of goodness found in the fruit of the Spirit is not concerned with social consequences. It is not about what makes me happy or helps me get friends; it is concerned with what is right and what will truly benefit others. What would Jesus be doing in this situation?

Let's read **Luke 5:27-32**

After this he went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth. And he said to him, "Follow me." And leaving everything, he rose and followed him.

GOODNESS Help Week Leader Guide (continued)

And Levi made him a great feast in his house, and there was a large company of tax collectors and others reclining at the table with them. And the Pharisees and their scribes grumbled at his disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" And Jesus answered them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."

You see, Jesus wasn't concerned with what other people thought of Him. He did what was right. Levi, AKA Matthew, was a tax collector. He was hated because tax collectors were treated like thieves. But Jesus doesn't see Matthew like everyone else. He doesn't join in to make fun of him. He calls him to be a disciple. Jesus eats with Matthew, befriends him, and walks alongside him. Not because it would make Him popular but because it was the right thing to do.

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APPLY IT:

Discussion Option 1: Should Christians care what other people think of them? Explain why you think they should or should not.

Discussion Option 2: What kind of reputation should a Jesus-follower have? What should they be known for?



ACTION CHALLENGE:

- **Group Challenge:** Let's do an Instagram challenge! Celebrate the goodness you see others display by snapping a shot of them in action and giving a brief description of what they are doing. (Include the following hashtags: #firstpriority #fpstory #fpgoodness)
- **Share Challenge:** Share the Gospel with 3 people before the next meeting. That might seem hard, but be bold and make a mental note of how you found the courage to do it.
- **Prayer Challenge:** Ask God to open your eyes to the needs of others around you and to equip you to help in meeting those needs.

WRAP UP: 2 minutes

- Share any FP Club announcements including that next week's meeting is Overcome Week.



GOODNESS

Overcome Week Leader Guide

Overcome: A time for student leaders to encourage their peers to overcome their fears of sharing the Gospel.



PRE MEETING INSTRUCTIONS:

- Select one student to lead this month's Overcome Week
- Post to social media and text friends inviting them to First Priority Club

INTRODUCTION: 3 minutes

Welcome Students, Prayer and Introduction

- **Overcome Week Host:** "Welcome to First Priority! This month we are talking about the fruit of the Spirit, specifically, **GOODNESS.**"
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Introduce Student Leading Discussion:** Today, my friend, _____, is going to share about how God changes hearts to act out the goodness of God.

GROUP TIME: How to Be Good (20 minutes)

Student Speaker: How many of us have had the opportunity to steal something but didn't because we were afraid of the possible consequences? How many of us have been worried after we told a lie that we would be found out?

Most of us have been in these situations, but real goodness is not based on external consequences. The reason for not stealing or lying is not about the punishment, it's about the heart. Goodness is more than doing the right things; it is wanting to do the right things. We are not talking about conforming to worldly standards; we are talking about transforming our minds and hearts to imitate Jesus.

How do we move beyond doing good deeds or acting polite to living out God's goodness? There are three truths we must break down.

Romans 3:10-12 tells us this

"No one is righteous, no, not one. No one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."

First, we are helpless to change our hearts into being good. That is why it is called the fruit of the Spirit because it is not of our making.

Second - God wants to do good through you! Even though we don't measure up, Jesus still wants us to reflect His goodness in the world.

Ephesians 2:10 says, *"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."*

“Goodness is more than doing the right things; it is wanting to do the right things.”



GOODNESS Overcome Week Leader Guide (continued)

Third - trust in Jesus as Savior. There is a need to clarify something as we study through these characteristics of the fruit of the Spirit. They are not characteristics of us, but of the Spirit who is in those who have put their faith in Jesus.

Paul wrote about this very thing in **1 Corinthians 15:10**.

"But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me."

Notice that Paul understands that it is not him at work, but Christ in Him. If you want to move beyond the act of only doing good to truly living out God's goodness, there is only one way, and that is to love Jesus.

APPLY IT:

Discussion Option 1: What are the ways that you've seen God's goodness in others in this room? Encourage someone here at club today by sharing how you've seen Christ-likeness in them.

Discussion Option 2: Take a minute and write down some honest questions. Then give the paper to a student leader or campus coach and ask them to help you settle some of these concerns. You can tackle them one at a time each week or maybe they can give you some other resources to check out.

ACTION CHALLENGES:

- **Group Challenge:** Instagram Hunt: take 3 photos this week of people displaying Goodness. Then in the description connect it with a verse of scripture. For example, snap a photo of someone carrying the books of a student using crutches and then in the description reference, "Proverbs 17:17 "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity." **#firstpriority #fpstory #fpgoodness**
- **Invite Challenge:** Text 5 friends and invite them to First Priority and ask them if you can pray for them this week about anything. If they share a need you can help with DO IT!
- **Prayer Challenge:** Get a partner and pray for one another, that God would show each other how to imitate His goodness.

WRAP UP: 2 minutes

- Share any FP Club announcements including that next week's meeting is Prepare Week.



WHY IS TRAINING STUDENT LEADERS TO SHARE THE HOPE OF CHRIST SO IMPORTANT?

Last school year over 2,000 students were trained as leaders and 9,000 of their peers responded to the good news they shared in FP clubs.

#studentsreachstudents
#firstpriority

GOODNESS

Prepare Week Leader Guide

Prepare Week: A time for students to learn how to share their story of what their life was like without Christ in contrast to their new life with Christ.



PRE MEETING INSTRUCTIONS:

- Select one student to lead this month's Prepare Week
- Post to social media and text friends inviting them to First Priority Club
- Print "Your Faith Story" (1 per student) if you want to have every student attending club working on their testimony at the same time. (Faculty sponsors can usually print these for you if given enough notice)

INTRODUCTION: 3 minutes

Welcome Students, Prayer and Explanation

- **Prepare Week Host:** "Welcome to First Priority! This club is a place to seek and grow in God. This week is Prepare week, which is where we practice sharing our personal story about how we came to know Jesus."
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Introduce Students Giving Testimonies:** "Today, my friend _____ is going to share their story. Please listen respectfully as it takes a lot of courage to speak in front of others. Afterward, we are going to give some positive feedback on how well they did and also ask questions. Let's welcome them as they share."

TESTIMONY TIME: (15 minutes)

Share Testimonies

1. Student Testimony = _____

2. Student Testimony = _____

3. Student Testimony = _____

TESTIMONY WRAP UP:

- **Prepare Week Host:** "Let's take the next couple of minutes to give positive feedback to those who shared about how they did and feel free to ask them questions about their story."

[OPTIONAL]: Pass out printed copies of "Your Faith Story" and read, explain, and practice each step in groups of 2 or 3.

Appendix A

YOUR FAITH STORY - HOW TO WRITE YOUR TESTIMONY

1. START WITH A KEYWORD

The first step in writing down your faith story is choosing what keywords describe your life before Christ. Below is a list of emotions. Circle two or three that describe how you felt as a result of a problem you faced without Christ in your life. You are not limited to this list, so feel free to choose a keyword of your own! This part helps keep your story compelling and on track.

KEYWORDS

alienated	bitter	fearful	hurt	rejected
alone	confused	frustrated	insecure	uncertain
angry	depressed	guilty	lonely	unforgiving
apathetic	distrusting	heartbroken	lost	unloved
ashamed	doubtful	hopeless	prideful	

2. SET UP THE BACKGROUND

Now describe the situation in which you came to face this problem and why your keyword describes the way you felt. It is more important to be honest than dramatic. This helps people to relate with your story personally and understand why we need God in our lives. If you need more space, continue on the back.

3. SHARE HOW JESUS ENTERED YOUR STORY

Now describe how you came to know Jesus. Be sure to describe that moment (or that process) if you can with adjectives that show how meaningful and impactful it was for you. Try to describe how Jesus touched your heart, and how you responded (such as asking Him to be your Lord and Savior). This part challenges people's idea of what God is like.

4. STATE THE IMPACT OF CHRIST ON YOUR LIFE

Now describe how Christ impacted your problem and your life. Use the emotion opposite of your keyword and share how Christ either reversed your problem or is continually giving you the power to overcome. This is the part that inspires your hearers to place their hope in Christ!



ACTION CHALLENGES:

- **Group Challenge:** Take a photo celebrating the goodness of God and post it to Instagram #**GodisGood**
- **Prayer Challenge:** Pray daily for the students in your school who need the goodness of Jesus Christ and for Christ following students to be encouraged to share His goodness with others.
- **Invite Challenge:** Personally invite at least 5 students to Engage week next week.

WRAP UP: 2 minutes

- Share any FP Club announcements including that next week's meeting is Engage Week. Remind everyone to bring a guest because it will be a fun atmosphere with food and a game, as well as a student giving a Gospel presentation.

GOODNESS

Engage Week Leader Guide

Engage Week: A time for students to engage their school with the Gospel.



PRE MEETING INSTRUCTIONS:

- Confirm your student guest speaker and remind them to be prepared to share the Gospel and an invitation to accept Christ. More Gospel presentation options can be found at firstpriority.club
- Confirm that student follow up cards have been printed and will be ready to hand out to students as they enter your meeting space. Faculty sponsors can print for you if requested in advance.
- Confirm that arrangements for food for the club have been completed and that it is ready to serve just before club opening.

INTRODUCTION: 3 minutes

- Allow students to fellowship as student leaders prepare the group activity.

Welcome Students

- **Engage Week Host:** "Welcome to First Priority! Today we are going to start with a game to get to know one another. There is food for everyone here, so please feel free to grab a bite to eat while we get started."

GROUP ACTIVITY TIME: 5 minutes

- Game: Budget Karaoke
- Preparation: Earbuds and a phone with music downloaded
- Play: Select 6 or 7 clean songs that are very well known and have 1 person put the headphones on and either hum the lyrics or mimic the instrument parts. If the club guesses each song within 30 seconds, a point is awarded for the club. Earn as many points as possible.

GROUP TALK: Gospel, Invitation, and Response Cards – 15 minutes
Introduce Student Sharing the Gospel

- **Engage Week Host:** “Today, my friend, _____ is going to share about something that is very important to them. Please listen respectfully as it takes a lot of courage to speak in front of others. You all were given a student response card that looks like this (hold up a sample card) when you came in. Just hold on to them and we will explain what they are for later.”

Gospel

- **Gospel Presenter:** Begin the presentation by sharing a short version of your testimony.



GOSPEL PRESENTATION: S.Q.U.A.D.

Who makes up your squad? Most likely your squad is made up of the people in your life that you have the closest bond with. I consider God to be the main member of mine. He is number one, he calls the shots, and I think no real squad is complete without Him. He is my friend – but more than that – He is my Lord. Today, I'd like to tell you why.

1. SIN SEPARATES.

As we all know, nobody is perfect. In fact, we all have sinned and fallen short of God's standard. Our sin destroys our connection with God. We simply cannot be good enough to reach heaven or earn salvation.

Romans 3:23, *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"*

2. QUIT TRYING TO SAVE YOURSELF.

Even though we know we fall short, we often are stubborn and keep trying to do things our own way. We must stop trying to do things our own way and start doing things God's way. We must let go of our own way and let God lead us into His way.

Matthew 16:24, *"If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."*

3. UNDERSTAND GRACE.

The good news is, Jesus has sacrificed His life for you and me. He took on our guilt so that we could go free. He loves us deeply, unconditionally, and freely. This is an incredible gift offered to every single person in the entire world to accept or reject.

2 Corinthians 5:21, *"For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."*

4. ACTUALLY RESPOND TO THE OFFER OF SALVATION.

Sadly, many people claim to know about Jesus but nothing changes in their life. To know Jesus is to receive the gift of salvation and to grow in it. Accepting God's grace also involves putting God in charge of your life. The choice is yours.

Romans 10:9, *"If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."*

5. DECIDE TO NEVER GO BACK TO THE OLD WAY OF LIVING.

Deciding to follow Jesus is not a second chance to do better, but an entirely new position to live from! This means that you must recognize that some of the characteristics of your old life do not belong to your new one in Christ. One cannot have it both ways – one must consider if following Jesus is worth saying goodbye to the old way of living.

2 Corinthians 5:17, *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."*

If you are ready to go "all in" with Jesus today, I would love to show you how to join His squad.

HOW TO RECEIVE CHRIST AS SAVIOR

1. Confess your need (I am broken and in sin)
2. Change your direction in life, knowing that God's way of living is better than our way of living
3. Believe that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross and was raised to life to save you and restore your relationship to God
4. Receive through prayer the free gift of salvation and begin your journey as part of the family of God.



WHAT TO PRAY

Father God,

I know that I am broken, and I need your forgiveness. Jesus, I believe you died and were raised so I could be saved. I want to turn away from my old life and toward a completely new life with You in Your family. Right now, I put my trust in You and invite You to come into my life and change it. In Jesus' name, Amen.

STUDENT RESPONSE CARDS: 5 minutes

Opportunity to connect

- If everyone would just take a minute and think about what was shared today. If you decided to follow Jesus today, then on your response card, simply let us know that you made that decision so that we can connect with you and answer any questions you may have to celebrate your new life in Jesus.
- If you have questions or would like us to help you find a local church youth group, mark that on your student card so we can connect with you and just listen to what you have to say. We would love to help you find what you are looking for.
- If you are not interested, that's okay to. No one here will judge you, we are just excited that you are hanging out with us today.

STUDENT RESPONSE CARD

My response to the gospel message today
(please only check one):

Today, I prayed to receive Christ

I would like more information about the Gospel

I have already prayed to receive Christ before today

I am not interested

My name _____

Cell # _____

Church you Attend _____

Who invited you to First Priority today? _____

The information you put on this card will be given to a student leader to follow up with you. Your information will not be stored or given to anyone else.

WRAP UP & PRAYER: 2 minutes

- As we wrap up, I want to close in prayer, but first I wanted you to know that _____ is available to connect with you if you have questions today. Also, the response cards can be given to _____ and will only be used for follow up requests. Thank you for coming today and please join with me as I close us out in prayer thanking God for His love for all of us today.
- **Student Leader:** Thank you so much for coming today! Please turn in your card to _____ before you leave. We meet here every week at this time, so you are all invited to come back next week.

FOLLOW UP GUIDE

Following up with those who just committed their lives to Jesus or have questions is equally as important as sharing the Gospel! This guide will give you a few pointers on how to do follow up correctly. If your club chooses, you can put one student leader in charge of the follow-up process or delegate to a team of students.

Remember, your main goal is to be **HELPFUL!**

SIX THINGS TO DO WHEN FOLLOWING UP

- 1. Determine how many and what kind of follow-up has been requested.** As soon as possible, read through the response cards after you have collected them and let your Campus Coach know how many people committed their lives to Christ and how many students have questions or want someone to follow up with them.
- 2. Organize the response card information.** Write down on the follow-up chart the names, response, and contact info of everyone who made decisions and requested to talk with someone.
- 3. Make contact within 24 hours with everyone who responded** to the Gospel on Engage Week. This can be done by text message, personal conversation at school or social media, just remember to check with your parents for permission before contacting someone you do not know. The initial message should be something like this: *"Hello _____! My name is _____ and I saw that you came to First Priority club this week! We are really excited you came and we hope you'll come back next week. I also noticed that you marked on your response card that you [prayed to begin a relationship with Christ] -or- [wanted to talk with someone about the Gospel] so I wanted to ask how I could help you."* If you have questions about their responses, you can contact your Campus Coach for guidance.
- 4. Invite them to church!** If they were invited by a friend to First Priority, ask that friend to invite them to youth group this week, since they are more likely to attend church with someone they know. If they plan to go to church for the first time, you can also ask your campus coach to notify the student pastor that they will be having a new guest this week! Make sure to discard any response cards that you will not be needing for follow-up.
- 5. Offer a free Bible to those who prayed to receive Christ** if Bibles are available through your First Priority club or church. Make sure one is available before you offer and make sure they receive it if they accept.
- 6. Share any cool stories of salvation and new local youth group** members with your Campus Coach! He or she will want to celebrate with you about what God is doing through your club!

ENGAGE WEEK FOLLOW UP

School: _____ Month: _____

Mtg: _____ Coordinator: _____

Student Name	Committed life to Christ	Wants to talk with someone	Wants info on a local church	Follow up dates and details
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				

Notes:

PRAY FOR 1

This month, as we focus on prayer, let's keep it simple.
Take time each day to pray for 1:

- 1 FRIEND WHO DOES NOT FOLLOW CHRIST
- 1 FAMILY MEMBER
- 1 TEACHER
- 1 MEMBER OF THE ADMINISTRATION

Keep it simple on your own or invite a few trusted friends
each day to join you to pray



We believe in the impossible:
THE HOPE OF CHRIST
IN EVERY STUDENT
at your school.

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